

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

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August 24, 2021

Good morning St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Families,

We wanted to provide you with our most current updates as we prepare to welcome your child(ren) back to school.

When does my child come to school?

To best prepare our students for a safe return to school, we have staggered the start dates for **Year 1 (Junior Kindergarten)** students.

Our Kindergarten educators will be reaching out by phone to share specific information regarding start dates for Year 1 (Junior Kindergarten) and Year 2 (Senior Kindergarten Students). All Kindergarten students will be in full attendance by Friday, September 10th.

All students in **Grades 1 to 8** will start school on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**.

Transitioning Back to School

All Year 1 Kindergarten students, and **new** Year 2 Kindergarten students will have an opportunity to visit their classroom prior to the first day of school. A Kindergarten educator will reach out to you to schedule a visit on Wednesday, September 1st.

When will I know who my child's teacher is?

We will email class lists to all families on **Friday, September 3rd**. We apologize that we can't share this information with you earlier, however, class lists are still being finalized.

Where do I drop my child off on the first day of school?

The instructional day begins at 8:15 a.m. Students may be dropped off at the school between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. Students will proceed directly to their classroom during morning drop off to keep cohorts (classes) separate. Staff will be outside to assist parents with this new procedure.

Where do I pick my child up after school?

Students will be dismissed directly from the emergency exterior doors in their classroom. Students will not exit the building through the main entrance of the school. Students may be picked up by the west gate of the building (at the end of the school parking lot). Students in primary will be dismissed at the gate located to the left of the main entrance as per past practice.

What if I, or my child, arrives after 8:15 a.m.?

Students arriving late will enter the school through the main entrance of the school. Please ring the bell and Mrs. Coulter will assist you. A reminder to all parents/guardians that you may not enter the school unless by appointment.

What do I do if I need to pick up my child during the school day?

For planned appointments, please write a note to the classroom teacher to indicate the time you plan to arrive at school. We will do our best to have your child ready for your planned arrival. If circumstances require you to pick up your child immediately, please call the main office and we will do our best to have your child ready at the front entrance. Please ring the bell and Mrs. Coulter will assist you.

Will my child be sharing learning materials with others?

Yes. Public Health has allowed the use of shared materials between students to support learning.

Can my child bring his/her own device to school?

We have always encouraged students to bring their own device to school to support their learning. If they do so, they will be expected to adhere to our student code of conduct and acceptable use policies, which can be found [here](#). Please remember that personal devices are the responsibility of the student and not the school.

Will technology be available at the school for my child to use?

Yes. Students will have access to shared devices within their classroom.

What will recess look like for my child?

We will continue to stagger recess times and allocate sections of the yard to classes. The climbers are open and will be assigned to one class at a time for use. Students will be reminded to sanitize their hands before recess and after recess.

What will snack/lunch look like?

Students will be assigned seats during snack and lunch time. Students will be required to remain in their seat during this time to ensure their safety, and the safety of others. Students will not be permitted to leave the premises during the lunch block, unless they are being picked up by a parent/guardian.

Can I purchase milk, popcorn or hot lunch?

Yes. Milk, popcorn, and hot lunch are permitted. You will be notified when these become available for purchase.

Will the breakfast program be available?

The Food Share Program will be available to students. At this time, the program will remain a “grab-and-go”. Unfortunately, this will not be available immediately. We will communicate to families when this will become available.

Does my child need to wear a mask/face covering?

Students in Grades 1 to 8 are required to wear a mask/face covering when inside the building except for when drinking or eating. Students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Masks are to be provided by families, and we encourage each family to provide 2 to your child each day. Students will not be required to wear masks when outside, but can continue to do so if they wish.

Does my child need to wear a mask/face covering at recess?

Your child may wish to continue to wear his/her mask at recess, but this is not required. A reminder that lanyards to hold masks are not permitted as this poses a choking hazard for students.

Do I need to wear a mask/face covering in the school?

All visitors to the school will be required to wear a mask or face covering in the school. A reminder that visitors to the school will be limited, and parent/guardian visits are by appointment only.

What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are staff wearing?

All staff will be assigned a medical-grade mask and a face shield. Staff who are in regular close contact with a child may be provided with enhanced PPE.

Do I need to send any cleaning supplies with my child?

The school board has created an enhanced cleaning protocol that focuses on disinfecting high touch points (door knobs/handles, surfaces including desks and chairs, etc.). In addition, each school has been provided with enough hand sanitizer for staff and student use throughout the day. You are not required to provide any of these products for your child.

Will we have assemblies or school masses?

At this time, school assemblies and masses will be virtual. This will be revisited later in the fall.

What does the COVID-19 School Screener look like?

We currently do not have the latest COVID-19 School Screener. We will share it with families as soon as it becomes available.

We hope that we've been able to answer the questions you may have at this time. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school at your convenience.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school!

Sincerely,

Mr. Gencarelli
Principal

Mrs. Day
Vice Principal